UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to Senate Report 111-295 accompanying S. 3800, Defense Appropriations Bill, 2011, dated September 16, 2010 which requested a report on the timeline for changing the Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense (VA/DoD) Joint Executive Council (JEC) Strategic Plan (JSP), to explicitly discuss the Departments' electronic health record (EHR) system modernization efforts and how those efforts will cost effectively address common requirements of DoD and VA. As this issue falls within the purview of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, I have been asked to respond. Similar letters are being provided to the other House and Senate committees of interest.

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Thank you for your interest in the health and well-being of our Service members, veterans, and their families.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
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Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

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As Stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Jim Webb
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Attachment
As Stated
cc:

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Joe Wilson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
The Honorable Susan A. Davis
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chairman:

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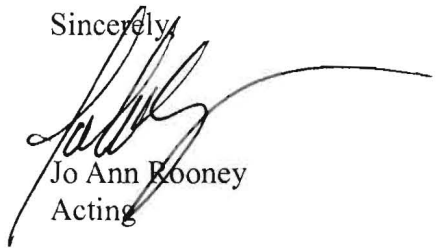

Jo Ann Rooney
Acting

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-4000

PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

MAY 4 2012

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Acting

Attachment
As Stated

cc:
The Honorable Bob Filner
Ranking Democratic Member

Appendix B
Addendum

Addendum to the VA/DoD Joint Executive Council (JEC) Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for Fiscal Years 2011-2013

(As approved at the December 2, 2011, JEC Meeting)

FY 2011-2013 JSP Objective 2.3.D

Goal 2: Health Care – Provide a patient-centered health care system that delivers excellent quality, access, satisfaction, and value consistently across the Departments.	Working Group	DoD/VA Interagency Program Office (IPO)
Sub-goal 2.3: Value – Encourage substantive improvement for patient-focused, high-value care, which includes the delivery of the right health care to the right person, at the right time, through the use of reliable health care cost and quality information.		
SMART Objective 2.3.D: Move to an integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR) to improve delivery of health services across DoD and VA.		
Activities & Milestones	1. To better evaluate the needs for a shared presentation layer and assess the feasibility of this service for use in the iEHR, DoD and VA will deploy a shared Graphical User Interface (GUI) to the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (JAL FHCC) in North Chicago by December 1, 2011. 2. To engage the Open Source community and capitalize on innovations, DoD and VA will operationalize an Open Source Custodial Agent for iEHR by August, 2011. 3. To support the iEHR, DoD and VA will define and initially staff a program organizational structure and operational construct by March 31, 2012. 4. To obtain one of the infrastructure foundation elements for the iEHR, DoD and VA will award a contract for the iEHR Enterprise Services Bus (ESB) acquisition by January 31, 2012. 5. To support standard data models across DoD and VA, VA will begin mapping the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System to the Health Data Dictionary (HDD) by March 31, 2012. 6. To provide a shared environment for DoD/VA systems testing, DoD and VA will establish iEHR joint Development and Test Environment (DTE) by September 30, 2012.	
Recommended Metric(s)	• 80% of the activities and milestones will be completed as scheduled	

FY 2011-2013 JSP Objective 3.9.A

Goal 3: Efficiencies of Operations – Establish a national model for the effective and efficient delivery of benefits and services through joint planning and execution.	Working Group	DoD/VA Interagency Program Office (IPO)
Sub-goal 3.9: Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Health – Ensure portability and accessibility to health data for Service members, Veterans, and their designees.		
SMART Objective 3.9.A: Deliver secure and seamless access to and sharing of clinical data for treatment as evidenced by measuring and evaluating VLER Capability Area (VCA) 1 pilot projects by July 31, 2012.		
Activities & Milestones	1. DoD and VA will complete the measurement and evaluation phase of the VCA 1 pilot projects and make a Nationwide rollout go/no-go decision by July 31, 2012 per criteria described in the VCA 1 CONOPS, dated April 8, 2011. Criteria include Sites/Locations, Systems, NwHIN Standards and Specifications, and Users & Consumers Perception of Value. 2. If VCA 1 "Go" decision is made then DoD and VA will begin nationwide rollout by September 2012.	
Recommended Metric(s)	• The Go/No Go Criteria will be met per The VCA 1 CONOPS, Appendix G, Table 20 and a decision will be made by Department leadership. • Nationwide Rollout would begin by September 2012.	

FY 2011-2013 JSP Objective 3.10.A

Goal 3: Efficiencies of Operations – Establish a national model for the effective and efficient delivery of benefits and services through joint planning and execution.	Working Group	BEC Information Sharing/Information Technology (IS/IT) WG
Sub-goal 3.10: Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) Benefits – Support sharing of Service members' and Veterans' electronic administrative, personnel, and health information a) for benefits adjudicators to carry out disability claims processing and other benefits processing and b) for Service members, Veterans, and their authorized designees to access administrative, personnel, and health information .		
SMART Objective 3.10.A: Support electronic information sharing for disability claims processing and other benefits processing; and provide Service members', Veterans', and their designees' access to administrative, personnel, and health information by accomplishing: • The collaborative sharing of electronic administrative, personnel and health information for disability claims processing (VCA 2) by end of December 2014 • The increase in electronic information sharing (VCA 3) with additional partners (external to DoD, VA, and SSA) to facilitate benefits provision for Service members, Veterans, and their designees by December 2014. • The appropriate access to a single portal (eBenefits) for health and benefits information (VCA 4) by December 2014.		
Activities & Milestones	VCA 2 1. DoD* and VA will develop a Plan of Action and milestones for VCA 2 foundational data capability by May 31, 2012. 2. DoD* and VA will develop a Performance Evaluation Plan for VCA 2 in accordance with BEC IS/IT guidance by July 31, 2012 3. DoD* will develop the information technology capability for DoD to review patient authorizations for the release of Protected Health Information (PHI) to release health information to adjudicate SSA disability claims by December 31, 2012.	

	4. DoD* and VA will support VCA 2 foundational data capability by providing the foundational health data made available through VCA 1 to VBA benefits adjudicators by December 31, 2012. 5. DoD* and VA will support VCA 2 foundational data capability by providing the foundational health data made available through VCA 1 to SSA benefits adjudicators by December 31, 2012. 6. For VCA 2 to achieve the expanded health data capability, VA, SSA and DoD functional communities will define and validate the health data requirements by March 31, 2012. 7. DoD and VA will develop a VCA 2 Concept of Operations by March 31, 2012. 8. DoD and VA will begin to capture VCA 2 lessons learned and incorporate into subsequent implementations by March 31, 2013. * Contingent on DoD securing Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM) for iEHR that includes VLER Health by December 9, 2011. <u>VCA 3</u> 9. DoD and VA will: a. Develop Concept of Operations for VCA 3 by March 31, 2012. b. Identify via the BEC IS/IT Requirements Working Group (RWG) meetings and/or RWG Subgroup meetings the specific longitudinal electronic health and administrative (benefits/personnel) data needed for housing, education, insurance, and memorial benefits by July 31, 2012. c. Develop implementation strategy for VCA 3 foundational capability by July 31, 2012. d. Develop Performance Evaluation Plan for VCA 3 in accordance with BEC IS/IT guidance by September 30, 2012 e. Begin to capture VCA 3 lessons learned and incorporate into subsequent implementations by September 30, 2012. <u>VCA 4</u> 10. VA will enhance the Memorial Affairs Performance and Usability Enhancements (MAPUE) capability to allow Veterans and their dependents to pre-apply for burial and memorial benefits before the time of need via the eBenefits.gov portal by September 30, 2012 11. DoD and VA will develop VCA 4 Performance Evaluation Plan by December 31, 2012. 12. DoD and VA will Identify requirements for VCA 4 capabilities in collaboration with VA, SSA, and other federal/private partners by December 2012.
Recommended Metric(s)	Metrics will be developed by December 31, 2012 which will address the following performance areas: • Efficiency of electronic information sharing for disability claims adjudication and benefits provision processes • Timeliness of electronic information sharing across DoD and VA for benefits adjudication • Accessibility of electronic information for benefits adjudication • Capability enhancement (e.g., data elements shared, auto-population capability) • User satisfaction